

Raising Students' Intercultural Awareness in ELT Classroom of 2013 Curriculum: Teachers' Perspectives

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Abstract

The relation between culture and language has always been the concern of all the stakeholders in ELT. Brown (2001) proposed that culture and language are intertwined and cannot be separated without losing its significance. This means that learning the knowledge of English means embracing the variety of new culture that comes with it. Zhu (2010) defines that culture can be divided into two major aspects, such as culture-bound topics and culture-bound language items. These two aspects are very important to be addressed in ELT classroom. In our current curriculum of Kurikulum 2013, there is urgency for the academic practitioners to address the intercultural awareness through culture-bound topics and culture-bound language items. Working with classroom observation and semi-structured interview, this study aims at revealing what teachers do to address intercultural awareness in ELT classroom of Kurikulum 2013. The study was conducted with four junior high school teachers who used the Kurikulum of 2013 in their classrooms as the subjects of the research. As the result of this study, the researcher found that the teachers are aware of the concept of culture and its variety and able to address various culture-bound topics with the emphasis on culture with 'small c'. On the other hand, the culture-bound language items are not well-addressed as culture-bound topics in the learning process.

Key words: intercultural awareness, kurikulum 2013, culture-bound topics, culture-bound language items